

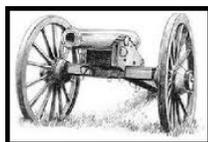
Established 1953



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LOCATION: SMOKEY BARQUE 20 KANSAS STREET FRANKFORT, ILLINOIS



Join the Smokey Barque Club by texting "Smokey" to 411669 and receive 10% off your meal

Time: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2016 AT 7:00 PM



Join us for dinner beginning at 5:30 p.m. Stay for the meeting at 7:00 p.m.!

Contact Us at (815) 274-5321 or SSCWRT@gmail.com



Many thanks to our August speaker Jerry Allen who talked about General George Henry Thomas. Jerry gave a fascinating talk that made a convincing case about Thomas' strong generalship and encouraged a re-evaluation of his contemporaries' accounts.



Our speaker on Thursday, September 22 will be Jim Heinz who will discuss The Life of Alonzo Hersford Cushing. Jim Heinz is a retired police officer from Milwaukee who developed a lifelong interest in the Civil War when his parents took him down South during the Centennial of the Civil War when he was 7 years old. He is an expert in the lives of Wisconsin's favorite sons, the Cushing Brothers. He has made presentations on the Cushing's and other Civil War topics to the Milwaukee Civil War Roundtable, the Wisconsin Marine Historical Society, the Kenosha Civil War Museum, and the Prairieville Irregulars Civil War group. His presentation will cover the life of the most famous Cushing brother, Alonzo Cushing, whose death at the climax of Pickett's Charge lead to his being awarded the Medal of Honor by President Obama. Come and hear him speak about one of the most famous heroes of the most famous battle in American history.



First Lieutenant Alonzo H. Cushing



Helen Loring Esign (cousin of Cushing) accepts Medal of Honor from President Obama

2016-2017 MEMBERSHIP DUES

It's time to get your 2016-2017 membership dues to our Treasurer, Gordon Ramsey. Yearly dues are \$25 for individuals, \$30 for families, and \$5 for students. If paying by check, please make check payable to Gordon Ramsey. Your support helps keep our group going! There is no admission charge for our presentations. We are proud to continue to bring high quality presentations to the region at such little cost. A big thank you to those who have already paid!



\$25 Individuals \$30 Families \$5 Students

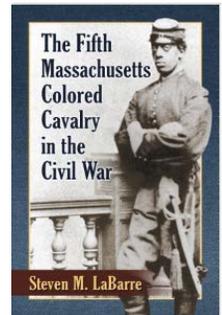
GOT POLO?

Interested in purchasing a SSCWRT polo shirt? The cost is \$35, sizes are S, M, L, XL and XXL, and comes in many colors including black, blue and light blue. We need a minimum purchase of 12 shirts to place an order. If interested, please contact Dennis Doyle.



BRAVO

Last year SSCWRT member **Steve LaBarre** signed a contract with McFarland Publishing to publish his first book. We're happy to report Steve's book, *The Fifth Massachusetts Colored Cavalry in the Civil War*, has been published! In January 1863, a long-anticipated military order arrived on the desk of Massachusetts Governor John Andrew. President Lincoln's Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton, had granted the governor authority to raise regiments of black soldiers. Two units--the 54th and 55th Massachusetts Infantry--were soon mustered and in December, Governor Andrew issued General Order No. 44, announcing "*a Regiment of Cavalry Volunteers, to be composed of men of color...is now in the process of recruitment in the Commonwealth.*" Drawing on letters, diaries, memoirs and official reports, this book provides the first full-length regimental history of the Fifth Massachusetts Cavalry--its organization, participation in the Petersburg campaign and the guarding of prisoners at Point Lookout, Maryland, and its triumphant ride into Richmond. Accounts of the post-war lives of many of the men are included.



YOU DON'T SAY

Did you know the **National Hotel**, located on the southeast corner of Bluff and Jefferson Streets and erected in 1837, was one of Joliet's finest hotels? Upon completion, it became an important social center as well as a first class inn. For many years, the National hosted most of the balls and large social gatherings in Joliet. Typically, dancing began in the early evening and continued until dawn. Conveniently located close to the I&M canal, the hotel lodged thousands of passengers from pack boats. When people began traveling by train, the National shuttled them from the station to its front door in a bright yellow bus drawn by a team of gray horses driven by Levi Boon, a black man who also sounded the hotel's gong at mealtime to summon the hotel's guests. The National Hotel had fresh spring water in the basement kitchen and a bell system consisting of wires running from the rooms to the office where they were attached to bells on springs. **The National Hotel had such notable guests as Abraham Lincoln, Stephen A. Douglas and Martin Van Buren.** The hotel was destroyed by fire in December 1958.



Colonel
James Henry Lane

The Battle of Dry Wood Creek (also known as The Battle of the Mules) – Vernon County, Missouri - September 2, 1861 – Confederate Victory

Fresh off a victory at Wilson's Creek, the Missouri State Guard under command of Major General Sterling "Pap" Price advanced toward Fort Scott, in southeastern Kansas. Colonel James H. Lane, in command of a jayhawker brigade of volunteers, confronted Price in the Battle of Dry Wood Creek, 12 miles east of the fort. Heavily outnumbered in the two-hour battle, Lane was forced to abandon his mules and withdraw to Fort Scott and then to Kansas City. Rather than capture Fort Scott, the Missouri State Guard switched course to attack Union forces at Lexington, Missouri. The skirmish is sometimes called the "Battle of the Mules" to commemorate Lane's loss.

SIDEBAR: Before the start of the Civil War, the name "jayhawkers" applied to bands of robbers, associated with the Kansas Free-Stater cause, who rustled livestock and stole property on both sides of the state line. During this period, a jayhawker could be a hero or a villain, depending on individual circumstances or one's opinion on the issue of slavery in Kansas Territory. By the time the war ended, however, the term "jayhawkers" became synonymous with Union troops led by abolitionists from Kansas, and "jayhawking" became the generic term for armies plundering and looting from civilian populations nationwide.



General Sterling Price

October 13-23 – Chicago

Take advantage of discounted admissions, special exhibits, giveaways and more at each of the participating museums. Illinois residents will receive up to 25% off admissions at all museums. Free admission – for a list of museums go to:
<http://www.chicagomuseumweek.com>

IN THE NEWS

U.S. News & World Report magazine reported on August 8, 2016, that even though the Civil War ended more than 150 years ago, the U.S. government is still paying a veteran's pension. **Irene Triplett** is the 86 year old daughter of Civil War veteran **Mose Triplett** and collects \$73.13 a month from her father's military pension. Mose Triplett was born in 1846 and joined the Confederate army in 1862, but later deserted and signed up with the Union. His first wife died and they did not have any children. He later married Elida Hall who was at least 50 years younger. They had five children, three of whom did not survive infancy. Irene and her younger brother Everette did survive. Mose Triplett was 83 years old when Irene was born, and nearly 87 years old when her brother Everette came along. Mose Triplett died a few days after returning from the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg in 1938. His wife and daughter went to live in public housing and his son ran away. Elida Triplett died in 1967 and Everette died in 1996.



Mose Triplett, second from right, daughter Irene on his lap, with his first wife, Mary, and unidentified people.

After Mary's death in the 1920's, Pvt. Triplett married Elida Hall, 50 years his junior

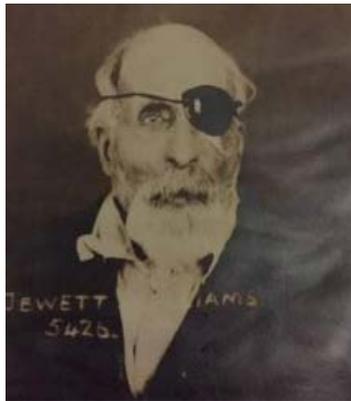


Photo taken of Jewett Williams when he was admitted to the Oregon State Hospital in 1922. He died three months later.

The *Idaho Statesman* reported on August 23, 2016 that the cremains of Civil War veteran **Jewett Williams** was escorted through 19 states, including Idaho, on its way to Maine. Williams was admitted to the Oregon State Hospital for the Insane and died at the age of 78. His cremains, stored for 94 years, were among 3,600 found in copper urns in 2004 in what was dubbed the "Room of Forgotten Souls." Researcher Phyllis Zegers discovered that Williams enlisted in Company H of the 20th Maine Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Williams took part in three battles near Petersburg, Virginia in late 1864 and early 1865. Jewett Williams shared a tent with his cousin, Albert Williams, who in a letter reflecting his rudimentary education, described long marches in bad weather and sleeping in the open. Albert Williams wrote:

"i didnt have a chance to get a shot at a reb when we on the rode but i made the Cattle and Sheep and hogs suffer. You bet we killed every thing that we see and burnt every thing as we went," Albert Williams wrote on Dec. 18, 1864, less than four months before he died of fever at age 21.

The *Columbus Dispatch* reported on August 28, 2016, a Civil War soldier misidentified when he was buried at an Ohio cemetery more than 150 years ago is to get a new headstone. Confederate soldier **Augustus Beckmann** was fatally wounded in the Battle of Shiloh on April 7, 1862. But he was buried at the Camp Chase Confederate Cemetery in Columbus under the wrong name, A. Bergman, and wrong company. The headstone reads: A. Bergman, Co. C, Texas Rangers, C.S.A. Augustus Beckmann's brother's great-great-grandson, Greg Beckman, discovered the error when he visited Camp Chase. Beckman pulled together the necessary documentation and asked the National Cemetery Administration to fix the headstone and recently learned his request was approved. Beckman's great-great grandfather, William Beckmann, was Augustus' brother. The two came to America from present-day Germany between 1858 and 1860 and enlisted in the 2nd Texas Infantry in Galveston. "William never learned the fate of his brother, as Augustus was buried under the wrong surname of Bergman all those years," Beckman said. "The last time they saw one another was on the Battlefield of Shiloh." Augustus Beckmann was buried under the name Bergman at Camp Dennison near Cincinnati, and the incorrect name followed him when his remains and those of 30 other soldiers were removed in 1869 and reinterred at Camp Chase.



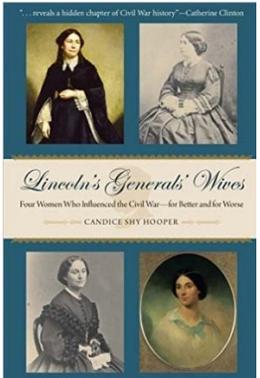
The **Camp Douglas Foundation** is preparing an application to have the footprint of Camp Douglas listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Please show your support by signing their petition available at: <https://www.change.org/p/camp-douglas-restoration-foundation-add-camp-douglas-to-the-national-register-of-historic-places>



Lincoln's Generals' Wives: Four Women Who Influenced the Civil War—for Better and for Worse: In this intricate comparative analysis, Candice Shy Hooper explores how Jessie Benton Fremont, Mary Ellen (“Nelly”) Marcy McClellan, Eleanor (“Ellen”) Ewing Sherman, and Julia Dent Grant motivated, guided, encouraged, and occasionally clashed with their famous husbands during the Civil War. Organized as a series of case studies and illustrated with photographs and distinctive maps, *Lincoln's Generals' wives* provides an in-depth look at these women's lives and their marriages as they evolved before, during, and after the war. Along the way, Hooper reviews in detail the military successes and failures of generals Fremont, McClellan, Sherman, and Grant. Hooper is particularly concerned with how each of the generals' wives influenced her husband's relationship with his commander-in-chief, President Abraham Lincoln.



Smithsonian magazine's **Museum Day Live!** is **Saturday, September 24**. This annual event in which participating museums across the country open their doors to anyone presenting a ticket for free. A list of participating museums can be found at: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday/>. Print tickets from website.



IN SEPTEMBER

REMINDER: The Philip H. Sheridan Camp of the **Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War** (SUVCW) in conjunction with the Maple Hill Cemetery Association will conduct a dedication ceremony for seven new headstones on the previously unmarked or poorly marked graves of Civil War veterans buried in the historic Maple Hill Cemetery in Elwood, Illinois. The ceremony will be held on **Saturday, September 17 at 1:00 pm** at the cemetery located at 21301 West Mississippi Avenue, 1 mile west of Elwood. Street-side parking is available. Attendees are encouraged to bring chairs for their comfort. Among those receiving new grave markers are: James F. Branch (20th Illinois Infantry), George R. Clark (20th Illinois Infantry), Thomas F. Francis (2nd Illinois Light Artillery), Joseph Hedge (8th Illinois Infantry), James Kinney (12th and 17th Illinois Cavalries), Ralph Nye (86th Ohio Infantry) and Stephen J. Roke (100th Illinois Infantry).



NEW: SSCWRT member **Don White** will be speaking at 11:00 am and 1:00 pm regarding **“Remembering Our Presidents – The Ohio Men”** at the **National Civil War and Military Collectors Show**. Also at the show will be the **Battlefield Balladeers** singing **“Songs of the Civil War.”** The show is **Saturday, September 24 from 9:00 am-4:00 pm** at the DuPage County Fairgrounds located at 2015 W. Manchester in Wheaton. Dealers throughout the U.S. will be offering Civil War treasures and memorabilia. Admission is \$9; early buyers enter at 8:00 am for \$25. For information call (715) 526-9769 or www.chicagocivilwarshow.com.

IN OCTOBER

REMINDER: The **Dollinger Family Farm** located at 7502 East Hansel Road in Channahon presents **Civil War Days 2016 Reenactment Weekend** on **Saturday and Sunday, October 15 and 16**. Admission is *free* except \$8 for adults, \$6 for children for the battle only. Purchase tickets online and receive \$1 off. For more information go to www.dollingerfarms.com or call (815) 467-6766.

